

SR 904, Cheney to Four Lakes Corridor Update

Issue 2

December 2003

“Lt. Col. Michael P. Anderson” Memorial Highway Dedicated

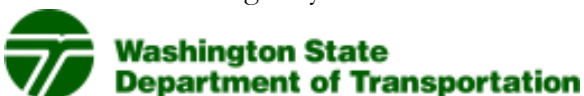


The Andersons unveil one of the signs dedicated to their son's memory. Memorial Highway sign has both Columbia Mission and NASA logos.

State Route 904 was named “Lt. Col. Michael P. Anderson Memorial Highway” in a ceremony on Thursday, July 31, 2003. The special sign was unveiled at the ceremony in Cheney near the intersection of Betz Road and SR 904. Bobbie and Barbara Anderson, Lt. Col. Anderson's parents, were on hand for the special event and unveiled the commemorative sign that would be placed along the highway near Interstate 90.

Lt. Col. Michael P. Anderson was part of the seven member crew of the Space Shuttle Columbia, which broke up on re-entry of the earth's atmosphere on February 2, 2003. Anderson graduated from Cheney High School in 1977 and considered Spokane his home. Mr. Bobbie Anderson addressed the gathering with some special words about his astronaut son.

Also speaking at the event were Fifth District Congressman George Nethercutt, representatives for Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, State Senator Larry Sheahan, and State Representative Alex Wood. Chris Marr spoke on behalf of the Washington State Transportation Commission and the Department of Transportation. Attendees also included State House Representatives Don Cox and Jeff Gombosky and a number of civic leaders. The West Plains Chamber of Commerce worked with the Legislature and the Transportation Commission during naming of this memorial highway.



Traffic Safety Project

The SR 904 Traffic Safety Project kicked off on Tuesday July 8, 2003 at the Cheney Plaza. As of October 1st the Cheney Police, Spokane County Sheriff and the Washington State Patrol are working together to increase their presence on the roadway during peak traffic times. In addition to law enforcement and safety improvements to the road, the campaign is designed to inform drivers they have a responsibility to reduce the number of accidents on SR 904.

The Memorial Highway Traffic Safety Project begins.



Cheney businesses and citizens are working together to educate all drivers on how to drive more safely on the Memorial Highway. Look for information booths at events on the Eastern Washington University campus and promotional items in local businesses. Giveaway items with the corridor projects logo are available. Litter bags are currently in Cheney gas stations and at Napa Auto Parts. If you want to help spread the word, call 324-1530 for more information. See related story inside on the SR 904 HES (Hazard Elimination Safety) Project.



SR 904 Route Development Plan

Why do a Route Development Plan ?

In order to make decisions based on facts, the department needs to fully examine all aspects of a particular highway portion. One type of study is the Route Development Plan (RDP). The Route Development Plan is a planning study developed to identify deficiencies and propose solutions on state highways.

The goal of the RDP process is to develop “living documents” that can be easily updated; that identifies and analyzes operating conditions; environmental issues; population and land use issues (including right-of-way); and other issues affecting the future of our state highways and its neighbors.



An Open House with details about the proposed Route Development Plan was held at Cheney Middle School's cafeteria on April 9th. Guests reviewed aerial displays, roadway sections and discussed the proposals with department engineers, planners and right of way agents.

To see the complete RDP visit :

www.wsdot.wa.gov/regions/eastern/projects/SR904CheneytoFourLakes

RDP Charts SR 904's Future

This Route Development Plan (RDP) addresses a segment of SR 904. This a Non-National Highway System (Non-NHS) route, two lane undivided highway beginning near the Cheney city limits north to the Four Lakes vicinity. This portion of SR 904 serves as the major commuter route between the City of Spokane and the City of Cheney and also connects all of Spokane and Eastern Washington University. With a current average daily traffic of 15,300 vehicles and a 2.5% growth rate, capacity and safety along this route has become a concern.

There have been a number of off-road crashes and rearend collisions.

To accommodate the existing and projected growth patterns, plus enhance safety and increase capacity, this plan recommends building a five lane undivided highway at an estimated cost of \$14.1 million. This would entail:

- Constructing two additional lanes for through traffic.
- Constructing a center lane/two way left turn lane.
- Implementing partial access control.

This recommended alternative is the most cost effective with many advantages, such as, improving capacity and safety, having minimal need for additional right-of-way purchase, creating minimal impacts to the environment, and providing for route continuity.

Still Growing

Year	EWU Student Fall Enrollment	Bus Ridership **	I 90 EB on-ramp Daily Traffic
2000	8,597	1,121	15,838
2001	8,932	1,140	16,244
2002	9,178	1,032	16,661
2003	9,506	1,046/1,897	17,078
2010	12,000 *	NA	19,805 ***
2013	NA	NA	21,327 ***
2023	NA	NA	27,301 ***

* estimate projects full time equivalent students all campuses (EWU)

** total trips from actual weekday counts on route #65 (STA)

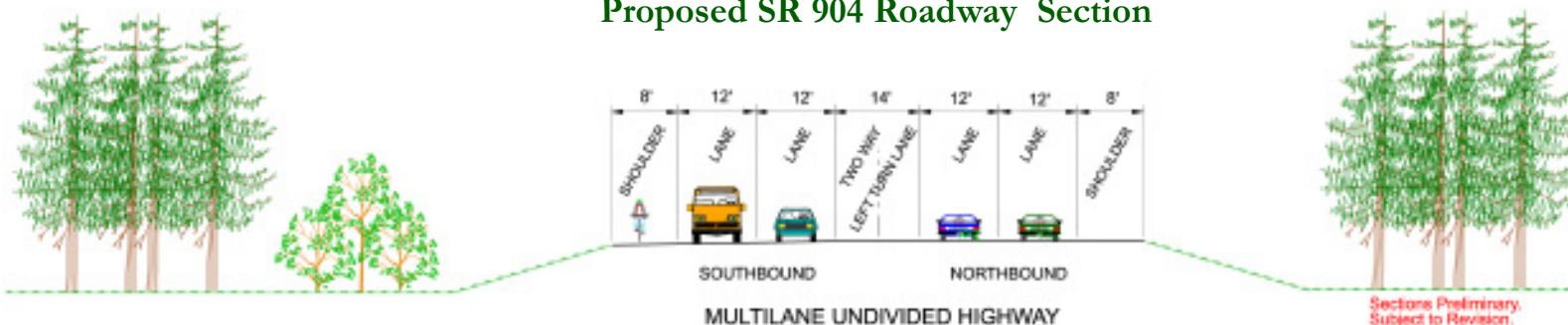
2003 counts - pre-Sept. 03'/post-Sept. 03' EWU Student ID & Bus Pass

*** based on 2.5% growth rate from year 2002 & 2003 actual counts (WSDOT)

EB : East Bound on-ramp from Sr 904

NA Not Available

Proposed SR 904 Roadway Section



Construction & Other News

SR 904 HES Project

The Hazard Elimination Safety (HES) Project started construction August 25th. A continuous centerline rumble strip with double solid yellow stripes creates a no-passing zone from Four Lakes to Cheney. Bicycle friendly non-continuous shoulder rumble strips were installed. A center turn lane from Four Lakes to Meadow Lake Road was constructed, and turn lanes at four county road intersections were installed and illuminated.

Rumble strip close-up



e-mail SR904CSS@wsdot.wa.gov

Interstate 90 Project

This past summer WSDOT completed a major pavement rehabilitation and safety project on Interstate 90 between Salnavé and Geiger Interchanges. The existing pavement was ground and new asphalt placed to correct rutting problems due primarily to studded tires. Safety work included slope flattening, removal of low lying rock in the median and moving the outside rock faces to increase the clear zone.

Illumination, sign updates, rumble strip extensions, and recessed pavement markers were also installed. The safety work was accomplished while preserving the character of the roadway.



Commuters at Four Lakes Exit

e-mail OlsonK@wsdot.wa.gov

Feedback

Thanks are in order to EWU's Fall 2002's Professional Planning Practice class for identifying critical issues and offering alternatives to improve SR 904. After a round table discussion, and review of similar highway projects the seminar students adjourned to compile their proposals. Many of the students' ideas reinforced the Traffic Safety Project's concepts. Illumination, turn lanes, traffic separation, law enforcement presence, land use, and congestion were common issues.

Electric Ave Intersection Detail

Meadow Lake Rd Intersection Detail

Jensen Rd Intersection Detail



Proposed SR 904 Design



Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information

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Title VI Statement to Public

WSDOT hereby gives public notice that it is the policy of the department to assure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. Persons wishing information may call the Washington State Department of Transportation, Office of Equal Opportunity at (360) 705-7098.

Glenn Wagemann Project Engineers Office
SR 904, Cheney to Four Lakes Project
Washington State Department of Transportation
2714 N. Mayfair Street
Spokane, WA 99207-2090

Phone: (509) 324-6250
Fax Number: (509) 324-6255
Or via e-mail at: SR904Project@wsdot.wa.gov
We're on the Web: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/regions/eastern/projects/SR904CheneytoFourLakes>

Questions or Comments



Aerial view of Lt. Col. Michael P. Anderson Memorial Highway/Cheney's 1st Street looking northeast towards Four Lakes - June 2003

